

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-10. (cancelled)
11. (new) A method for determining seat comfort, comprising
measuring pressure distribution over a seat surface using a pressure sensing system,
measuring an actual deformation of the seat surface using a deformation sensing system, and
computing a value of seat comfort on the basis of the measured actual deformation of the seat surface and the measured pressure distribution of the seat surface.
12. (new) The method according to claim 11, further comprising computing a softness matrix value of seat comfort from a measured pressure distribution matrix and a measured deformation matrix of the seat surface.
13. (new) The method according to claim 12, further comprising displaying the computed seat comfort value in a three-dimensional representation as a multi-dimensional elasticity matrix over the seat surface.
14. (new) The method according to claim 11, further comprising using a first measuring mat, having a plurality of measuring sensors, of the size of the seat surface to measure the pressure distribution and using a second measuring mat for measuring the seat surface deformation, the first and the second measuring mats having substantially the same number of points of measurement and each being positioned as a layer.

15. (new) The method according to claim 11, further comprising measuring the deformation of the seat surface by forming a difference from a matrix value of a three-dimensional imaging of the seat surface in an unoccupied case and from a matrix value of a three-dimensional imaging of an upper surface of the seat upon its initial occupation.

16. (new) Apparatus for determining seat comfort, comprising:
a pressure sensing system for measuring a pressure distribution on a seat surface,
a deformation sensory system for measuring an actual deformation of the seat surface, and
an evaluation unit for computing seat comfort from the measured pressure distribution and the measured deformation of the seat surface.

17. (new) Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the pressure sensing system comprises a first measuring mat which is designed to be fastened on the seat surface, and wherein the deformation sensing system comprises a second measuring mat which is designed to be fastened on the seat surface to retain a deformation of the seat surface.

18. (new) Apparatus according claim 17, wherein the evaluation unit has a calculating device for performing matrix calculations.

19. (new) Apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising an output and display unit to display three-dimensional measured value matrices.

20. (new) Apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising means for acting upon a seat surface with a pressure application and distribution corresponding to a sitting down of a person.

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please substitute the new Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate page for the original Abstract presently in the application.